

USE OF MOBILE APPLICATION TO TEACH PHONETICS

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on usage of mobile application in teaching and learning process in English Language Teaching (ELT). It also focuses on impact of the learners on the usage of Mobile Application which made their learning with an easy approach and its challenges.

KEYWORDS: Technology, Mobile Applications, Language Learning and Acquisition

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INTRODUCTION

With the changing scenario in teaching and learning process, the use of mobile applications to teach language has a tremendous impact on the learners and has tasted success in the course of its journey. Language is to be acquired and then learnt. Learning and acquisition go on hand in hand. It is difficult to separate both the aspects.

Technology is playing a vital role and modified the means of learning English Language significantly.

To mention, mobile applications have provided every learner a great scope to learn in a convenient manner.

In this paper I would like to mention the use of one such mobile application and share my experiences after the use of that application.

We need language to communicate. We claim English as a “medium to win the world”. “How to communicate in English?” is a major drawback for the people in our country to a great extent. Effective communication demands accurate pronunciation to a considerable extent. To start with, learning appropriate pronunciation is a big challenge even for great speakers. To facilitate the learners there came in the mobile applications which are now being put to optimum use. Many mobile applications are available to learn various aspects of language. Amongst them mobile applications to learn pronunciation and grammar are being used extensively. Pronunciation and grammar play a major role in language acquisition. To learn pronunciation basic knowledge of phonetics is very much essential. Now it is the need of the hour to learn good pronunciation owing to globalization. With a never ending thirst for user friendly applications and technology in learning, mobile applications have paved way to learn language with ease and convenience. Mobile applications are a boon for the language learners.

There is a need for the students to learn appropriate pronunciation to lead globally. Knowledge of phonetics plays a major role in acquiring speaking skills. Good knowledge of phonetics helps students’ to acquire

neutral accent which in turn helps them to communicate with ease globally. Thus mobile applications can be effectively utilized to achieve the same.

K&J pronunciation app is a user friendly application. It meets the requirement of the learners where English is learnt as a second language or a foreign language. This application provides the learners to learn at their own convenience and pace.

This app meets the needs of the ESL learners from basic pronunciation features. To mention the key features, it starts with learning interface from single sounds to pronunciation of words. It also helps to understand the point of articulation and manner of articulation. These words are provided with practice session and also to the extent of test. These tests focus on development of recognition of sounds and also the acquisition of the same. It serves as a ready reference for practice. It provides an opportunity to lay a strong foundation in learning and acquiring pronunciation. Slowly passion towards learning the language through user friendly interface developed. It also created zeal among them to explore more. There are many applications available today. I could identify this app as more user friendly. This instills confidence among students to communicate without hesitation.

To mention a few advantages

Students can preserve and share material for further advancement related to studies.

Curiosity and fun act as a booster to learn.

Flexible practice in listening and speaking.

Assistive technology to meet the needs of language learners.

A chance to use digital skills in language instruction.

CONCLUSIONS

The learners need to spend a considerable amount of time to acquire the same. Along with the advantages there are few demerits in the development of these apps. To understand the accent is a challenging task primarily. Once this is achieved it is easy to proceed further. The focus is on learning pronunciation but not on intonation and stress, that is a learner can only identify and pronounce but not with accurate intonation. Lack of accurate intonation leads to ambiguity while speaking. While using these apps there is a need to refer to other authentic sources to attain correct pronunciation and thereby it helps in speaking fluently. Few students were given an opportunity to use this app. After spending considerable amount of time they were able to speak fluently and were able to identify the speech sounds easily. Right intonation acquisition was an uphill task to a great extent.

REFERENCES

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